

Message Text

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TOSEC 144

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 141236 SENT ACTION MOSCOW DATED
29 JUNE 1974:

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TOSEC 144

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SCUL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ART EXCHANGE BETWEEN METROPOLITAN MUSEUM
AND USSR MINISTRY OF CULTURE

REF: MOSCOW 10183(SECTO 64)

ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM CU/SOLMSEN

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT THIS PROJECT,
BUT HEARTILY ENDORSES PRIVATE EFFORT OF METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM. PARTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES SEEMS VERY LIKELY.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO POINTS MADE ON PAGE 3 OF HOVING
LETTER TO SOLMSEN, DEPARTMENT AGREES SOME SORT OF JOINT
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ENDORSEMENT OF PLANNED EXCHANGE DURING SUMMIT TALKS

HIGHLY DESIRABLE. THIS WOULD NATURALLY ADD TO SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPORTANT CULTURAL EXCHANGE, ASSIST METROPOLITAN MUSEUM IN ITS EFFORT TO GET COMMITMENT FOR TOP QUALITY WORKS FROM SOVIET SIDE, AND HELP OVERCOME PROBLEM OF OBJECTS IN UKRAINE AND GEORGIA NOTED BY HOVING AT POINT (C). METROPOLITAN HAS ALREADY OFFERED ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION TO USSR AS ITS PART OF BARGAIN.

3. DEPARTMENT FAVORS BRINGING THIS EXCHANGE UNDER UMBRELLA OF US-USSR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. THIS COULD BE DONE DURING VISIT, OR SUBSEQUENTLY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

4. DEPARTMENT IS NOT INCLINED TO SUPPORT REQUEST MADE IN HOVING'S POINT (D) FOR INDEMNITY LEGISLATION, BUT THIS WOULD NOT REQUIRE ACTION IN MOSCOW IN ANY CASE.

5. BACKGROUND PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT WAS PROVIDED TO WHITE HOUSE ALONG WITH OTHER SUGGESTED THEMES FOR PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS WHILE IN USSR.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT MUSEUM EXCHANGE DURING SUMMIT MEETING, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING WORDING:

"THE TWO PARTIES, AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE USSR AND THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART OF NEW YORK CITY LEADING TO A MAJOR EXCHANGE OF WORKS OF ART. SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IX OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON CONTACTS, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION SIGNED JUNE 19, 1973, UNDER WHICH THE PARTIES AGREE TO RENDER ASSISTANCE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF EXHIBITIONS BETWEEN THE MUSEUMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES." SISCO UNQTE SISCO

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